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Sahitya Akademi

meet the author

Chandra Nath Mishra 'Amar'





Who tells Nero is a Noun proper?
Maybe in some period of history
There had been an emperor Nero,
But for our country
For this democratic nation
Nero is an ingrained mentality
A Noun common!
Among the seventy crores
If not seventy lacs, or seventy thousand
At least there must be seventy hundred souls
Who are Neros from head to foot.
— Neros from Head to Foot

The lines above sum up Chandra Nath Mishra 'Amar's personality as a poet. His poems depict the crises and conflicts of the modern Indian society and its democratic set up.

Born in 1925 at an obscure village, Khojpur in the Madhubani district of Bihar, 'Amar' had his primary education first in his village and then at Darbhanga under the guidance of his father Pandit Muktinath Mishra, an erudite scholar of Sanskrit. It was from here (Darbhanga) that he passed his *Acharya* in *Vyakaran* and *Shastri* in sahitya.

He started his career as a teacher in Raj School, Darbhanga and later joined as a permanent teacher in Sanskrit and Maithili at Maharani Lakshmivati Academy, Laheriasarai from where he retired in 1983.

As a poet in Maithili he began his career with his first collection of poems called *Gudgudi* (Titilations) at an early age of twenty-one years. Among his other poetic creations *Yuga-chakra* is the most explosive work of humour and satire. In *Unta Pal* he is at his maturest best in wit and satire. Like late Harimohan Jha in prose, Sri 'Amar' is ac-knowledged by all as the wittiest of satirists in verse in Maithili.

Three streams ran as under-currents throughout his literary compositions. The first one is his deep awareness of the classical cultural heritage enshrined in Sanskrit literature which gives his compositions a rich verbal texture. The other two tributaries of his literature are, first his penchant for literary journalism and second his vim on our political problems.

Ritupriya gives expression to the poet's reactions to the changing moods of Nature i.e. the cycle of seasons. Based obviously on classical Sanskrit models— in poetic idioms and expression— this beautiful work is as refreshing and witty as his other works. For this creative work the poet received the 'Harinandan Singh Memorial Award'. *Asha Disha*, an outstanding work of his middle age, was the most applauded Maithili book of verse of the nineteen seventies. This work contains songs heralding a new era for mankind while giving a message to the youths of the coming generation. For many this work is his magnum opus.



With his Canadian student

Poet 'Amar' also edited a literary fortnightly called *Vaidehi* at an early age. This journal was later converted into a monthly periodical which he continued to edit for many years. He also joined *Nirman*, a weekly journal as its editor. Later he edited *Swadesh*, the first Maithili daily as its joint editor and *Ijot*, a literary quarterly as its editor. With his knowledge and experience of Maithili journalism 'Amar' wrote *Maithili Patrakaritak Itihas*, which won him the 1983 Sahitya Akademi Award. This book is not only a history of Maithili journalism but also a fine piece of creative and critical writing.

Apart from all these, 'Amar' has been a colourful and popular columnist of several journals and periodicals in Maithili.

As a versatile litterateur Chandra Nath Mishra 'Amar's contribution to the evolution of modern Maithili prose is immense. He is a classicist by education, hence, his prose is stately clean and chaste. He, however, never misses a chance to use the common idiom and proverbs wherever necessary. The assorted essays and editorials reflect 'Amar' as a crusader for the cause of *Maithili* and *Mithila*. His other writings include novels, short stories, one-act plays and criticism.

'Amar' has lived in village and seen the lives of poor and middle class people. He has his roots in indigenous tradition and culture. The most significant feature of his novels, stories and poems is their rich variety— they are seldom alike or repetitive. He is realistic, yet he always has a positive view of life. He has never depicted crude or vulgar things in his work. His language is chaste, crisp and suited to the characters and things described. His knowledge of Sanskrit has enabled to pick up the choicest words and phrases for elegance in his poems written either in classical style, blank verse or rhythmical free verse.

'Amar' believes that a real piece of literature is that which gives hope to the fallen, extends sympathy to the destitutes and downtrodden and elevates the soul.

Chandra Nath Mishra 'Amar' is also remembered by his pupils as an extraordinary, conscious and popular teacher of Maithili, Sanskrit and Hindi. He was also famous for his discipline and punctuality, which brought for him reverence and grand eerie.

'Amar' has been a great thespian who contributed to the development of Maithili theatre. 'Amar' also notches the credit of being the first Maithili litterateur to show his acting ability in the first Maithili film *Kanyadan*, directed by Phani Majumdar. 'Amar' is well known all over the country, particularly among Maithili speaking people for his inimitable style of reciting poems from the podiums of Poets' meets.

To sum up, Chandra Nath Mishra 'Amar' is a complete man, a multi-facted personality, who has created a paradigm for young poets and writers to follow.

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

POETRY

Gudgudi	1946
Yugachakra	1952
Ritupriya	1963
Unta Pal	1972
Asha-Disha	1975

NOVEL, SHORT STORY & CRITICISM

Veer Kanya	1950
Bidagari	1963
Jalsamadhi	1972
M.M.Murlidhar Jha	1980
Kashikant Mishra 'Madhup'	1994

ONE-ACT PLAY

Samadhan	1955

MISCELLANEOUS

Trifla	1948
Maithili Patrikaritak Itihas	1981
Swatantra Swar	1994
Parashuramak Bichhal Berayal Katha	1995



With his wife Smt. Hira Devi

A CHRONOLOGY

1925 Born at Khojpur in Madhubani district of Bihar

1941 Married Hira Devi

1943 Founder Secretary Navratna Gosthi, Darbhanga

1945 Passed Vyakarnacharya Examination

1945 Joined Raj School, Darbhanga as teacher

1946 Passed Sahitya Shastri Examination



In writing mood

With Ramdeo Jha & Sureshwar Jha on the occasion of Manasotsav, Kochin 1994



Reciting poems

1947 Joined M.L.Academy, Laheriasarai

1951 General Secretary, Vidyapati Gosthi, Laheriasarai

1957 General Secretary, All India Maithili Sahitya Parishad

1964 Language director and actor in first Maithili film *Kanyadan*, directed by Phani Majumdar

1982 Member, Senate, K.S.D.S. University, Darbhanga

1983 Sahitya Akademi Award for *Maithili Patrikaritak Itihas*

1983 Member, Maithili Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi

1988 Member, Executive Committee, Maithili Academy, Patna

1993 Member, Programme Advisory Committee, All India Radio, Darbhanga

1993 Tamra Patra by Chetna Samiti, Patna